

# Program Change Request

Date Submitted: 03/24/26 8:30 pm

## Viewing: **SC-CERG-FORS : Forensics Graduate Certificate**

Last approved: 05/13/25 3:51 pm

Last edit: 03/24/26 8:39 pm

Changes proposed by: kcarisi

### Catalog Pages

#### Using this Program

[Forensics Graduate Certificate](#)

No Longer Anticipated closure

Rationale for

### Are you completing this form on someone else's behalf?

No

Effective Catalog: 2026-2027

Program Level: Graduate

Program Type: Certificate

Degree Type: Graduate Certificate

### Title:

Forensics Graduate Certificate

1. What was the process used to develop this program?
2. What evidence was used to support the program?
3. Have you ensured there are no conflicts of interest?
4. Has CPE confirmed the program meets the requirements?
5. Has the instructor(s) for this program been approved?
6. Does this badge provide a benefit to the student?
7. Is this badge co-sponsored with another program?
8. What is the expiration date for this program?
9. What is the program's impact on the student's learning experience?
10. What is the program's impact on the student's career development?

### In Workflow

1. FRSC Chair
2. SC Curriculum Committee
3. SC Assistant Dean
4. Assoc Provost-Graduate
5. Registrar-Programs

### Approval Path

1. 03/24/26 8:32 pm  
Kimberly Rule (kcarisi): Approved for FRSC Chair

### History

1. Nov 8, 2017 by clmig-jwehrheim
2. Feb 26, 2018 by rzachari
3. Feb 23, 2021 by jriemen
4. Mar 8, 2021 by Tori Blocker (vblocke)
5. Apr 8, 2022 by Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz)
6. May 26, 2022 by Tory Sarro (vsarro)
7. Apr 24, 2023 by Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz)
8. Apr 26, 2024 by Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz)

9. May 13, 2025 by  
Christina Theodorou  
(ctheodo)

Education  
Professional  
Status

**Banner Title:** Forensic Science Grad Cert

Is this a retitling of  
Existing Program

**Registrar/OAPI Use  
Only – SCHEV  
Status** Approved

**Registrar’s Office  
Use Only –  
Program Start Term** Fall 2018

**Registrar/OAPI Use  
Only – SCHEV  
Letter**

**Registrar/OAPI Use  
Only – SACSCOC  
Status**

**Concentration(s):**

	<b>Associated Concentrations</b>	<b>Registrar's Office Use Only: Concentration Code</b>
1	Crime Scene Investigation	CSCN
2	Forensic Biometric Identity Analysis	FRBI
3	General Forensic Science	FRSG

**Registrar/IRR Use  
Only –  
Concentration CIP  
Code**

**College/School:** College of Science

**Department /  
Academic Unit:** Forensic Science Program

**Jointly Owned  
Program?** No

**Is there an embedded degree as part of a program?**

**Justification**

What: Removing FRSC 690 Capstone/Moot court as a course option in the Crime Scene Investigations and General Forensic Science concentrations since it was recently deactivated. Adding FRSC 516 Forensic Drone Photography into the Crime Scene Investigation concentration and adding FRSC 650 Identity Analysis Applications into the General Forensic Science and Forensic Biometric Identity Analysis Concentrations as course options.

Why: Removing FRSC 690 since it was recently deactivated. Adding FRSC 516 and 650 to provide students with other relevant concentration course options.

## Catalog Published Information

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**Total Credits Required:** Total credits: 18

**Registrar's Office Use Only - Program Code:**

SC-CERG-FORS

**Registrar/IRR Use Only – Program CIP Code**

**Admission Requirements:**

**Admissions**

University-wide admissions policies can be found in the [Graduate Admissions Policies](#) section of this catalog. International students and students having earned international degrees should also refer to [Admission of International Students](#) for additional requirements.

## Eligibility

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Applicants should hold a bachelor's degree from an institution of higher education accredited by a Mason-recognized U.S. institutional accrediting agency or international equivalent with a minimum GPA of 3.00.

## Application Requirements

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To apply for this certificate, prospective students should submit the [George Mason University Admissions Application](#) and its required supplemental documentation, and:

- Two letters of recommendation from academic references or references in the industry or government who are familiar with the applicant's academic and/or professional accomplishments, and

- A detailed goal statement to include why the applicant is interested in applying to this certificate, their career and professional goals, and their educational aspirations.

The GRE is not required for admission into this program.

## Pursuing the Forensic Science, MS

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Students who wish to continue their studies may apply to the [Forensic Science, MS](#); please contact an advisor for details.

Program-Specific  
Policies:

## Policies

For policies governing all graduate certificates, see [AP.6 Graduate Policies](#).

## Transferring Previous Graduate Credit into this Certificate

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Previously earned and relevant graduate credits may be eligible for transfer into this certificate; details can be found in the [Credit by Exam or Transfer](#) section of this catalog.

## Premium Tuition

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Students enrolled in this professional certificate are charged at a differential (premium) tuition rate. Therefore, any courses or secondary programs that students may enroll in are subject to the differential tuition rate. The [Forensic Science, MS](#) has the same premium tuition rate, making it the ideal program for concurrent enrollment (if desired).

**Degree**

This certificate may be pursued on a full-or part-time basis.

**Requirements:**

Students should refer to the [Admissions & Policies](#) tab for specific policies related to this

certificate.

Students must complete all core courses and select one concentration.

## Forensic Core Courses

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<a href="#">FRSC 500</a>	Introduction to Forensic Science	3
<a href="#">FRSC 510</a>	Basic Crime Analysis	3
Total Credits		6

## Concentration in Crime Scene Investigation (CSCN)

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Choose 12 credits from the following: 12

<a href="#">FRSC 511</a>	Advanced Crime Scene Analysis
<a href="#">FRSC 513</a>	Forensic Photography
<a href="#">FRSC 516</a>	<a href="#">Forensic Drone Photography</a>

<a href="#">FRSC 530</a>	Law and Forensic Science	
<a href="#">FRSC 550</a>	Issues in Forensic Anthropology	
<a href="#">FRSC 590</a>	Medicolegal Death Investigation and Pathology	
<a href="#">FRSC 690</a>	<b>Course FRSC 690 Not Found</b>	
Total Credits		12

## Concentration in Forensic Biometric Identity Analysis (FRBI)

Choose 12 credits from the following:

12

<a href="#">FRSC 514</a>	Survey of Forensic Chemistry, Biology, and DNA Analysis	
<a href="#">FRSC 620</a>	Face and Biometric Pattern Analysis	
<a href="#">FRSC 630</a>	Fingerprint Identification	
<a href="#">FRSC 640</a>	Legal, Privacy and Ethical Issues in Identity Analysis	
<a href="#">FRSC 650</a>	<a href="#">Identity Analysis Applications</a>	
Total Credits		12

## Concentration in General Forensic Science (FRSG)

Choose 12 credits from the following:

12

<a href="#">FRSC 514</a>	Survey of Forensic Chemistry, Biology, and DNA Analysis	
<a href="#">FRSC 517</a>	Questioned Document Examination	
<a href="#">FRSC 520</a>	Toxicology	
<a href="#">FRSC 530</a>	Law and Forensic Science	
<a href="#">FRSC 570</a>	Trace and Physical Evidence Concepts	
<a href="#">FRSC 580</a>	Facial Reconstruction	
<a href="#">FRSC 630</a>	Fingerprint Identification	
<a href="#">FRSC 690</a>	<b>Course FRSC 690 Not Found</b>	
<a href="#">FRSC 650</a>	<a href="#">Identity Analysis Applications</a>	
Total Credits		12

**Retroactive  
Requirements  
Updates:**

**Plan of Study:**

Honors  
Information:

Accelerated  
Description/Dual  
Degree  
Description:

INTO-Mason  
Requirements:

College  
Requirements &  
Policies:

Department /  
Academic Unit  
Requirements &  
Policies:

**Program Outcomes**

**Additional Program Information**

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*This information is required by the Office of Accreditation and Program Integrity.*

**Courses offered via  
distance (if  
applicable):**

**Indicate whether  
students are able  
to pursue on a:**      Both Full and Part-time basis

**What is the  
primary delivery  
format for the  
program?**      Face-to-Face Only

**Does any portion of this program occur off-campus?**

No Yes

Off-campus details:

Are you working with a vendor / other collaborators to offer your program?

No Yes

Related  
Departments

Could this program prepare students for any type of professional licensure, in Virginia or elsewhere?

No

Are you adding or removing a licensure component?

No

### Additional SCHEV & SACSCOC Information

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Is the content of the new program

*Which existing approved*

Is this new program considered to

*Which existing approved*

Is this new program considered to

*Which existing approved*

Is this a re-opening of a program

*Date of Program Closure*

*What are the methods of delivery*

*Does this program include a*

Is this change a simple retitling of an existing program, with no other changes, to any existing program content, curriculum requirements, etc?

No

Does this change represent a repackaging of content in an existing approved degree/certificate program at the same instructional level (i.e., baccalaureate, master's, or doctoral)?

No

*Which existing approved*

Percentage of total credits containing new course content. ("New course content" is defined by SACSCOC as content that is not currently included in an existing approved degree/certificate program at the same instructional level. Do not exclude gen ed credits in calculations for undergraduate programs.)

0%-24%

Does this change include the addition of a distance education or face-to-face method of delivery for this program?

No

*What is the new method of*

**Does this change include the addition of a course/credit-based competency-based education delivery option?**

No

**Will any additional equipment/facilities be needed?**

No

*Description of institutional impact:*

**Will any additional faculty be required?**

No

*Description of institutional impact:*

**Will any additional financial resources be needed?**

No

*Description of institutional impact:*

**Additional library/learning resources needed?**

No

*Description of institutional impact:*

**Have you reached out to the Libraries to determine whether there are adequate resources to support your program? If not, please email Meg Meiman, Associate University Librarian for Learning, Research, and Engagement at mmeiman2@gmu.edu.**

## OAPI Use Only – Determination of SACSCOC Impact

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Comments or Notes

### Green Leaf Program Designation

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**Is this a Green Leaf program?** No

*Green Leaf*

*Sustainability-focused academic program*

*Relationship to*

*Relationship to*

**List sustainability-**

*Sustainability-related academic pr*

**List sustainability-**



**Does this program cover material which crosses into another department?**

No

**Impacted**

**Additional Attachments**

[GCForensics.pdf](#)

**Executive Summary**

**Reviewer Comments**

**Additional Comments**

**Is this course required of all students in this degree program?**

%wi\_required.eshtml%

**Attached**

Key: 192